

Evening Telegraph

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1871.

THE TENNESSEE.

The conflicting rumors about the Tennessee leave her fate in doubt, but increase the probabilities that she has been obliged to trust to her sails instead of steam, and that her voyage has thus been protracted without serious endangering the safety of the commissioners and her crew. It is said that a war vessel sold by the United States to the Haytian Government a few years ago was lost on a voyage from an American port to Hayti, when she had on board a number of prominent men connected with the Haytian Government, and some of those who are fearful of the fate of the Tennessee would regard her loss as one of the striking and shocking coincidences that occasionally occur in national affairs. There appears to be good grounds, however, for the hope that the Tennessee is still safe, and that the chief result of the prolongation of her voyage will be such a delay in the investigation and report of the commissioners that the present Congress will be unable to act definitely and understandingly on Grant's annexation scheme. If this anticipation proves correct, the San Domingo question will go over to the next Congress instead of being disposed of by the present House and Senate, and the chances of the success of the Presidential policy will thus be materially diminished. When the Tennessee started on her voyage it was supposed that time would be afforded for her safe return before the idea of March, and that a favorable report from the commissioners would probably insure the immediate passage of an annexation bill. This programme, however, has been substantially broken up either by adverse winds, defective machinery, or, possibly, by a fearful calamity; and from present indications the political future of the nation may be sensibly affected by the mishaps of the vessel whose fate is now an object of universal solicitude.

THE WEST POINT SQUABBLES.

The squabbles among the West Point students continue to engage the attention of Congress, and it was asserted in the debate yesterday that the root of the trouble was not only the admission of a colored cadet, but "the presence of a cadet, the son of a man high in authority, who interfered with orders and discipline." It is to be regretted that such difficulties arise in a national school of so much importance, and we hope that a solution will be found for them. While every student at West Point ought to be taught that he owes his highest allegiance to the whole nation, every mere partisan influence should be excluded, and offenders should be punished without fear, favor, or affection. It is bad enough that what is called "influence" determines who shall be the cadets, and "influence" of any and every kind should stop just at that point—so that the institution may be conducted on such principles as will give it the highest degree of efficiency. West Point is not supported by the nation as a hospital for youthful imbeciles, nor as a playground for young rioters, but as a nursery of the leaders of future American armies, and nothing should be done to militate against the development of the mental, moral, and physical strength of the cadets.

THE AMERICAN STEAMSHIP COMPANY.

The names of the subscribers to the stock of the American Steamship Company have been published, and the list shows that the merchants and business men of Philadelphia have fully appreciated the importance of this great enterprise, and have heartily given it their support. In the list of subscribers are the names of some of the best-known and most respected firms in Philadelphia, and all the multitude of industrial enterprises which contribute to the wealth of this city are represented. Many of the stock subscribers have also taken the bonds of the steamship company, and have otherwise exerted themselves efficiently to give it a fair start. The importance of a line of European steamships as an auxiliary to the manufacturing and commercial interests of Philadelphia cannot be over-estimated, and citizens of every class should contribute what they are able towards getting the vessels built and the line in running order as early a day as is possible. Extensive as is the list of stock subscribers, there are many prominent merchants and others of Philadelphia whose names are not found in it, and it is to be hoped that these will at least aid the enterprise by taking some of the bonds of the company. The amount of these bonds is not large for a great and wealthy city like this, and even if they were not secured by such a satisfactory endorsement as that of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, there ought to be no difficulty in the disposal of them. As it is, they are as safe as any securities in the market, and there is consequently no excuse, especially for those who will be directly benefited by the proposed line of steamers, if they are not all taken at an early day. If the company can obtain the money represented by these bonds it will be able immediately to commence building its vessels, and in a very short time a number of noble steamships will be travelling between the port of Philadelphia and Europe, and we will obtain a commercial advantage over New

York and other cities the value of which can scarcely be overestimated. Philadelphia has been repeatedly accused of a want of enterprise, and as there is now a magnificent opportunity to prove the incorrectness of such accusation, it ought not to be neglected.

A body of five hundred mounted horsemen, who are supposed to have been members of a Ku-Klux Klan, recently broke open a jail in Columbia, South Carolina, and took out ten negro prisoners confined on charges of murder and arson, eight of whom they instantly killed. Before the days of the Ku-Klux similar outrages were not unfrequently committed in the South in the name of Lynch law; and whatever they may be styled, they are indications of the prevalence of a spirit of barbarism exceedingly disgraceful to the community in which it is tolerated. Unhappily many sections of the South need not only reconstruction but civilization, and it is vain to hope for the establishment of law and order until their savage instincts have been tamed.

THE FINE ARTS.

The directors of the Academy of Fine Arts have purchased a lot of ground in a very suitable location—Broad and Cherry streets—but they have as yet taken no steps towards erecting a new building, or at least they have done nothing towards exciting a public interest in the enterprise. The gentlemen composing the Board of Directors of the Academy of Fine Arts are all engaged in other occupations, which employ the major portion of their time, and they either refuse or neglect to secure the co-operation of persons outside of their own body for the promotion of a scheme in which all the citizens of Philadelphia are more or less interested. The consequence of this management, or rather want of management, is that the Academy is now, as it ever has been, an obstacle rather than an aid to the cause of art culture in this city. It stands in the way of the establishment of an art school and art museum that will fulfill the proper ends for which such an institution ought to exist more than the Academy of Fine Arts ever has done as yet. It is possible that the directors of the Academy may be able, in course of time, to put up a building such as the art interests of the city demand, and when it is completed fill it with works of permanent interest and value. They may also by their own unaided efforts, or with the assistance of a limited circle of stockholders and subscribers be able to carry on art schools that will educate properly successive generations of painters, sculptors, and industrial designers, and perform all the other functions of a first-class art school. The past history of the Academy of Fine Arts, however, does not inspire any very great expectations in this direction; and experience, if it is of any value as a criterion of the future, proves that if the new Academy is to be what it should be, a general public interest must be excited in it. The close corporation plan upon which the old institution was conducted, by which the professional artists were practically excluded from all share in its management, was its greatest drawback. The gentlemen who composed the successive boards of directors were not artists, but were busily engaged in other pursuits, and looked upon the Academy of Fine Arts more as an elegant plaything to amuse their leisure moments than as an important public institution that ought to exert a powerful influence upon the culture of society. Now, if ever, is the time to remedy the defects of management which have impaired the usefulness of the Academy of Fine Arts in the past, and it is particularly important that those who profess to be interested in the matter should act with decision and energy, as both in New York and Boston movements for the establishment of extensive art museums and art schools have been started under remarkably favorable auspices. The collection of art works owned by the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts is a better nucleus for a great art institution than exists in America, and only a lack of energy and proper management can prevent a really valuable art school from being established here.

As it is, the only art school we have that is worthy of the name is the School of Design for Women, and that is embarrassed by a want of sufficient income to enable it to do all that its principal Professor, T. W. Braidwood, desires. The claim of the School of Design to notice does not consist alone in the fact that it carries out the aim of its foundation in educating young women for a profession by which they can earn their living respectably, but rather in the thorough educational course which every pupil is obliged to pass through. Professor Braidwood's theory is that art is a branch of education, and that an art school, to be worth anything, must be conducted upon a regular system which will firmly ground the pupil in the elementary principles which are at the foundation of all the various branches of the fine arts. At the School of Design the pupil is taught to draw as in another school she would be taught to read, and is gradually led from the simplest elements to the most difficult combinations—the eye, the hand, and the intellectual and imaginative faculties all being trained at the same time. The course of instruction at the School of Design is principally devoted to industrial art, but the principle is one that is applicable to any school of art, no matter how extended its aims may be, and that the course of instruction at the School of Design stops where it does is due to a lack of means to carry it further rather than a lack of disposition.

The directors of this school have secured the co-operation of the Board of Public Education, immediately for the purpose of obtaining some pecuniary aid from the State, on condition that it will educate, free of charge, forty pupils from all parts of the State. We are glad that this step has been taken, for, by making the School of Design a public institution in a more literal sense than it is at present, its usefulness will be greatly increased, and if the Board of Public Education takes an interest in its welfare it can easily be made a most important adjunct to the common and High Schools.

It is impossible that we shall ever in this country enjoy the same facilities that the great art schools of Europe do; but we can compensate for our deficiencies and to some extent improve upon the European schools by introducing a practical system of art education such as cannot fail to produce results of a most gratifying character. In order to do this, however, the matter must be put before the public in such a manner as to secure general sympathy and support. This support the new Academy of Fine Arts will not receive, except to a very limited extent, unless the gentlemen who have its management in hand will show some real enterprise and interest in the institution. If

they do take the proper steps in the matter, we have not the slightest doubt that they can obtain without serious difficulty all the money they need, not only to erect an elegant and commodious building, but to provide it with all the necessary appliances of an art school and museum that will be a credit to Philadelphia.

Other Art Matters. An exhibition of seventy-five pictures by Mr. Edward Moran will be opened in a few days at Earle's Galleries, for the benefit of the Newsboys' Home. Mr. Moran has been employed during the last nine months in finishing a large number of works in oil and water-color, which have accumulated in his studio, and in executing a number of new works. These pictures embrace a great variety of styles and subjects, principally landscape and marine, and many of them are in Mr. Moran's best manner. The exhibition, as being composed of the works of a single artist, will possess considerable interest, and we hope that it will net a handsome sum for the very deserving institution for whom benefit it will be held. It is the intention of the artist to sell these works by auction, and he originally proposed to place them on free exhibition. Learning, however, that the Newsboys' Home was in need of funds, he generously placed the entire collection at the disposal of the managers for a period of several weeks. One of the interesting features of this exhibition will be the catalogue which will contain beautifully executed lithographic copies of the pictures drawn upon stone by the artist himself. This catalogue will of itself be a work of art of some value, as those who saw the proofs on exhibition at the Union League House last week will readily understand. One-fourth of the profit on the sale of the catalogue will also be given by Mr. Moran to the Newsboys' Home.

At the store of Messrs. Bailey & Co., Twelfth and Chestnut streets, there is now on exhibition a work by a young Philadelphia lady artist, Miss Mary Stevenson, which is worthy of no less an account of its fine artistic qualities. It is a study of a young Italian peasant girl, and the artist in copying her model has transferred much of the stiffness, or rather the primness, of the original to her canvas. The little girl looks too much as if she were sitting for her portrait. This fault, however, is on the right side, as it indicates careful study of the model, the point wherein most young artists, and particularly lady artists, are deficient. The picture, however, is beautifully painted, with a sure, fine touch and with a fine feeling for color that are rather remarkable. There are not many artists in Philadelphia who are able to do anything equally good in the same line.

Messrs. Bailey & Co. have also on exhibition three bronze vases, cast at the foundry of Robert Wood & Co., of this city, from designs by Horatio Stone, an American artist residing in Rome. The originals of these vases were cast in Rome for Mr. W. W. Corcoran, of Washington, who, desiring duplicates, had them cast by the Messrs. Wood. These vases are entitled respectively "The Republic," "Freedom," and "Ecce Homo," and are covered with emblematic bas-reliefs intended to represent the political, religious, and art progress of America. As specimens of bronze castings these vases are worthy of hearty praise, and we doubt whether the originals are equal to the copies made at the foundry of Messrs. Robert Wood & Co. As works of art they are exceedingly inferior, and it looks like a waste of good material to use so much fine metal for such very indifferent designs. The vases themselves are far from being elegant in shape, while the figures which surround them are badly proportioned and badly arranged, and can scarcely be considered as more than caricatures. Why Mr. Corcoran should wish to have such performances duplicated is more than we are able to imagine.

It may not be amiss to mention that there are also on exhibition at the store of Messrs. Bailey & Co. a number of fine works by old masters which should receive the attention of connoisseurs, and of all who wish to understand upon what solid grounds of excellence the fame of the old painters rests.

At Earle's Galleries there is now to be seen a remarkably fine picture by Van Lierus, of Antwerp, entitled "Cinderella and Her Sisters." This work was exhibited here some years ago, when it attracted a great deal of attention, and it will doubtless be remembered by many of our readers. It is a different treatment of the subject than is generally seen, and the artist has to some extent sacrificed the sentiment of the old-fashioned fairy tale for the purpose of increasing the attractions of his picture. The sisters of "Cinderella" are superb beauties, and their costumes and the accessories add greatly to the gorgeousness of the work. The picture is one of the best of its class that has ever been seen here, and it is well worthy of a visit.

In one of the windows of Messrs. Caldwell & Co., Chestnut street, above Ninth, is an excellent copy of "A Fete Champetre" by Claude Lorraine, which was executed by Miss Gordon, a young lady-artist of this city, while studying in Europe, and which she has now offered for sale for the benefit of the French sufferers. The picture has all the appearance of being a very faithful duplicate of its original, and it should receive the attention of art connoisseurs.

NOTICES.

VERY CHEAP, OUR ELIZABETH OVERCOATS. VERY CHEAP, OUR WASH SKATING JACKETS. VERY CHEAP, OUR TRIPLE "SHIRT" COATS. VERY CHEAP, OUR FRIENDLY DRESS SUITS. VERY CHEAP, OUR BUSINESS SUITS. VERY CHEAP, OUR "YOUTH" AND "BOYS" CLOTHING. VERY CHEAP, OUR CHILDREN'S FANCY SUITS. WANAMAKER & BROWN, OAK HALL, THE LARGEST CLOTHING HOUSE, S. E. COR. SIXTH AND MARKET STS.

PEREMPTORY SALE of ancient and modern Paintings, consigned by David G. Shaw, Esq., of New York, this evening (to be continued to-morrow and Friday evenings), at Scott's Art Gallery, No. 81 Chestnut street, under the Girard House, embracing a fine collection of cabinet pictures and landscape subjects, together with several fine original gallery pictures by old masters. Sale to commence at 7 1/2 o'clock.

OPTICIANS. SPECTACLES. MICROSCOPES, TELESCOPES, THERMOMETERS, MATHEMATICAL, SURVEYING, PHILOSOPHICAL AND DRAWING INSTRUMENTS AT REDUCED PRICES. JAMES W. QUEEN & CO., 730 BROADWAY, No. 924 CHESTNUT STREET, PHILADELPHIA. MAPLEWOOD INSTITUTE FOR YOUNG Ladies, Philadelphia, Mass. Long and widely known for superior facilities and rare beauty of location. Board and English tuition, \$150 for half year, commencing February 25. Special terms to distant patrons and teachers. 216 1st St. Rev. G. V. SPEAR, Principal. COTTON-MIDDLING FAIR AND MIDDLING GULDS, Alabama and Uplands, samples, clean stain, etc., for sale by WILLIAM M. GREINER, No. 109 CHESTNUT STREET, 130 2nd.

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In returning thanks to our friends for the immense increase of patronage bestowed the past year, we would respectfully inform them that, having largely increased our stock, we are better prepared than at any previous year to meet the wants of our many customers. During the coming season we will make out

Silver Department Especially attractive, offering in TEA SERVICES, TABLE SILVER, FANCY PIECES, Many articles both unique and elegant in design and finish. We have endeavored, in procuring our Stock of Watches, Diamonds, Fancy Goods, and Bijouterie Of all descriptions, to suit the taste of the most fastidious, and meet the wants of the most careful buyers. An inspection of our goods and store entails no obligation to purchase, but gives great pleasure to

ROBBINS, CLARK & BIDDLE, No. 1124 CHESTNUT Street, 211 2nd Street PHILADELPHIA. PIANOS. PIANOS AND ORGANS. GEO. STECK & CO.'S, BRADLEY'S, HAINES' BROS., AND MASON AND HAMLIN'S CABINET ORGANS. COULD & FISCHER, No. 923 CHESTNUT Street, No. 1018 ARCH Street. J. E. GOULD, WM. G. FISCHER, 117 1/2 St. Steinway & Sons' Grand Square and Upright Pianos. Special attention is called to their new Patent Upright Pianos, With Double Iron Frame, Patent Resonator, Tubular Metal Frame Action, etc., which are matchless in Tone and Touch, and unrivalled in durability. CHARLES BLANUS, WAREHOUSES, No. 1006 CHESTNUT STREET, 913 1/2 St. PHILADELPHIA. ALBRECHT, REIKES & SCHMIDT, Manufacturers of Grand and square Piano Fortes, received their stock of first-class instruments, every instrument warranted and prices moderate. WAREHOOM, No. 610 ARCH Street.

SEWING MACHINES. WHEELER & WILSON SEWING MACHINE, For Sale on Easy Terms. NO. 914 CHESTNUT STREET, PHILADELPHIA.

INSURANCE. TWENTIETH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE Manhattan Life Insurance Co. OF NEW YORK, Nos. 106 and 108 BROADWAY. RECEIPTS FOR THE YEAR 1870. For Premiums, Extra Premiums, etc., \$1,844,875-22 For Interest, etc., do., do., 871,341-26 For Interest, etc., do., do., 100,635-18 \$2,816,851-71

DISBURSEMENTS. Paid Claims by Death on Policies and Bonuses, and Payment of Annuities, \$580,013-07 Paid Expenses, Salaries, Taxes, Revenue Stamp, Medical Examiners' Fees, Commissioners, etc., 282,786-29 Paid Dividends, Retired Policies, Intermittent, Purchased Policies, and Bonus, Interest on Dividends, etc., 609,554-60 \$1,472,354-16 ASSETS. Cash in Bank and on hand, \$77,964-91 Bonds and Mortgages, 2,415,325-81 Interest accrued on same, 2,415,325-81 Loans on Policies in force, 2,515,027-79 United States and N. York State Stocks, 706,850-00 Quarters and Semi-annual Premiums, deferred, 630,428-56 Temporary Loans on Stocks and Bonds, 688,725-00 Market value of the Securities, \$266,214-00 Interest due to date, and all other property, 83,864-93 \$8,921,115-30

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